

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[022] A variable electrochromic optical attenuator is provided that is used to control the intensity of a light signal. The electrochromic optical attenuator comprises a semi-transparent electrochromic device, and a plurality of electrodes configured to conduct electricity to the electrochromic device such that the transparency of the electrochromic device will be affected by an amount proportional to the magnitude of the electricity applied to the plurality of electrodes. The intensity of the light signal transmitted through the electrochromic device is affected by an amount proportional to the magnitude of the electricity applied to the plurality of electrodes. The electrochromic optical attenuator also includes at least one polarizing element having an optical polarization axis, wherein the polarizing element transmits a portion of the light signal proportional to the angular difference between the optical polarization axis of the light signal and that of the polarizing element. In one embodiment, the electrochromic optical attenuator is employed in a laser package that includes a laser, a pair of polarizing elements, and a faraday rotator.

WORKMAN NYDEGGER
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
60 EAST EAGLE GATE TOWER
1000 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111

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